

NEWS IN brief

Elderly woman hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman was hacked to death in her apartment at Banani in the city yesterday evening.

The body of victim Nasrin Akhter, 55, wife of US expatriate Tasul Islam Sams Chowdhury, was recovered from her bedroom on the second floor of the house around 7:00pm, police said.

Babu killing: None held yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police could not nab any of the three accused of Jan-E-Alam Babu murder case filed with Panchlaish Police Station in the port city.

SI Sazzad Karim Khan, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that they are conducting drives in different areas to nab the killers.

"The criminals perhaps have fled from Chittagong," said Sazzad.

Babu was killed allegedly by his friends at Rahman Nagar in the port city on Saturday midnight.

Babu's father Abul Hashem of Valua Bazar at Nangalcoat in Comilla, filed a murder case accusing Resaiyat Ahmed Joy, Atikur Rahman and Md Asif at 3:00am on Sunday.

Promila Nazrul's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 102nd birth anniversary of Ashalata Sengupta Duli alias Promila Nazrul, wife of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, says a press release.

On the occasion, Nazrul Promila Parishad and Tewta Promila Nazrul Sangskritik Gosthi will organise a daylong programme at her birthplace at Tewta village in Shibalay upazila of Manikganj.

The programme includes discussion, stage drama, and cultural function. Promila was born in 1908 and married to Kazi Nazrul in 1924. She breathed her last in 1962 and was buried at Churilia, the village where Nazrul was born.



BNP expels Kazi Mofiz

UNB, Dhaka

BNP national executive committee member Kazi Mofizur Rahman has been expelled from the party for violating the organisational discipline.

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi told UNB yesterday that party chairperson, under the power bestowed upon her by the party constitution, has expelled Kazi Mofiz, also Senbag upazila chairman.

INSA team holds seminars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visiting Indian National Science Academy (INSA) delegation yesterday conducted three seminars at Department of Physics of Dhaka University and at Atomic Energy Centre, says a press release.

Academicians and researchers from several universities attended the seminars on "Fascinating world of crystals", "Indian initiatives in science education" and "Genome-wide expression analysis for genetic analysis for genetic enhancement of rice".

The three-member delegation led by INSA President Prof Krishan Lal arrived in Dhaka on Sunday for a three-day visit to talk about collaborative research programmes between India and Bangladesh.

Today, the delegation is scheduled to discuss research collaborations between the two countries with Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

BNP holds a rally in front of its central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday. At one stage, two factions of the opposition party locked in a clash, inset. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR



Talk about constitution in JS: Nasim

BSS, Dhaka

Senior Awami League leader and former home minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday called upon the opposition party to talk about the constitutional amendment by joining the Jatiya Sangsad.

"There are scopes for expressing opinions by the opposition about the constitutional amendment in parliament if they have anything to say about this," he told a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity here.

Awami Olama League arranged the discussion on the occasion of the second death anniversary of eminent nuclear scientist Dr M Wazed Mian.

About BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's demand of resignation of the government, Nasim said, "The government has not failed, rather you have failed to make constructive criticism and also perform responsibilities as the leader of the opposition in parliament." The former home minister added: "If you are a responsible person, join the Jatiya Sangsad and discuss the constitutional amendment. Otherwise, you should resign from the post of the leader of the opposition instead of demanding resignation of the government."

He called upon the government to take initiatives to restore confidence of the investors in the stock market.

Nasim termed Wazed Mia as unassuming and devoted and a man without greed. "He did not exercise his power although he was very close to the power," he said.

With Olama League President Iliyas Hossain Bin Helali in the chair, the discussion was also addressed by Dhaka City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Ctg JSD demands new constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at a press conference here yesterday demanded a new constitution for the country, saying the existing constitution does not carry the spirit of the liberation war.

JSD leaders said they have made a proposed constitution and already submitted it to the constitutional amendment committee.

Allama Md Ikbal, president of JSD Chittagong city unit said JSD leaders think the present constitution does not reflect the actual spirit of the liberation war. So they demand a new constitution, he added.

Ferdous Chowdhury, a leader of JSD Chittagong city unit, said the spirit of the liberation war was to establish an independent country free of exploitation.

Acting Huji chief admits attack on CPB rally

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Acting chief of banned Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) along with his accomplices carried out bomb attacks on a CPB rally at Paltan on January 20, 2001, told an investigation officer (IO) yesterday at a Dhaka court.

Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Mrinal Kanti Saha, also IO of the case, said this after producing the leader Abdul Hannan Sabbir before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Keshob Roy Chowdhury while praying for a ten-day remand.

His (Sabbir) five-day remand, granted on May 3, ended on Sunday.

In the prayer, the IO said another Huji leader in a confessional statement given earlier said Sabbir played an active role in executing the attack on the rally. So, he needs to be remanded to find out whereabouts of the other attackers.

After the hearing, the court granted a five-

day remand.

Sabbir was shown arrested in the CPB blast case on April 28 for his alleged involvement with the bomb blasts that killed five persons and injured around 50 others.

Rapid Action Battalion on April 25 arrested two Huji members, including Sabbir, from a hideout at Keraniganj.

Earlier, 18 people including Sabbir, were shown arrested for their alleged involvement with the incidents.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan filed the case with Motijheel Police Station following the attack saying a group of anti-state conspirators made the attack.

Police arrested 12 people at that time but CID submitted the final report on December 17, 2003 as correct, impartial and reliable pieces of evidence were not found to prove the charges against the arrestees.

Later, the home ministry ordered re-investigation into the matter following an application submitted by the CID.

Youth arrested with DMCH medicine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was caught red handed in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday noon while illegally carrying drugs worth Tk 12,000 out of the hospital's medicine store in connivance with hospital staff.

On primary interrogation, the arrestee Mohammad Torun, 22, said the store pharmacist Mojibur Rahman and a DMCH class four employee Khelafat Ali paid him Tk 100 everyday to take drugs from DMCH to their assigned destination.

On information, an Ansar team at DMCH nabbed Torun in front of the outdoor department while riding out on a motorcycle.

Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Karim of Shahbagh Police Station, quoting the arrestee, said the youth resides in Labagh area and was carrying out the act for the last seven days.

DMCH authorities filed a case against Mohammad Torun in this connection and a five-member committee was formed led by Deputy Director Dr Mohammad Jasimuddin, which would submit a report in three days.

DMCH Director Brig Gen Shahidul Haque Mallick told The Daily Star that they suspended Mozibur and Khelafat temporarily and they have been absconding since the incident.



Twelve-day long "Dhaka Plant Fair 2011" begins at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday. National Nursery Society and Dhaka District Nursery Owners Multipurpose Cooperatives Association are organising the fair.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

METRO DESK

Ayesha Akter, mother of the daily Independent's senior sports reporter Anwar Ullah, breathed her last at the city's Birdem hospital yesterday.

She was 75, says a press release. She was suffering from diabetes for long.

Ayesha is survived by five sons and as many daughters.

She was laid to rest at the family graveyard at the Ashdiya village in Laksam, Comilla.

Janaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Namaz-e-janaza of Aziz Uddin Ahmed, former chief of Engineering & Environmental Services of UNHCR, will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city after Zohr prayers today.

Aziz died of cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

EC warns against influencing UP polls

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) has cautioned against exerting influence in upcoming union parishad (UP) elections, saying legal action would be taken if anybody is found influencing the polls.

Election Commissioner Sakhawat Hossain told reporters that allegations have been received that election officers in some areas have been harassed and threatened by the supporters of some influential persons. The EC will take legal action against them.

He further said that aspirants in some areas are barred to submit nomination paper. "It's a non-party local government election where any eligible person can contest it. To bar contesting the poll is a great offence."

He expressed dissatisfaction that MPs in some areas are involved in such offensive activities. Polling in those areas may be withheld, he warned.

Asked whether the EC is satisfied over the existing law and order situation, the election commissioner said no big incidents have been occurred relating to UP election.

Hossain hoped the UP polls in the second phase would be free, fair, and neutral. "We expect the cooperation and support from country's political parties."

According to the schedule of second phase, he said polling will be held in some 3,813 union parishads between May 31 and July 5 across the country.

Ctg city monorail service on cards

Says AL lawmaker

BSS, Chittagong

Awami League lawmaker Nurul Islam BSc yesterday said monorail service to reduce traffic jam and improve transport system in Chittagong city will be introduced soon.

He said such steps should be taken which would really provide relief to the city dwellers from unbearable traffic jam.

Islam disclosed the plan in a meeting with Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor M Manjur Alam at the latter's office yesterday.

Merchant Group of Companies of Thailand will implement the monorail service project.

The group's chairman Sumit Suttapukti, in a power point presentation, narrated various aspects of the project at the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Kevin Kang, president of Green Growth of Thailand; CCC Panel Mayor Mohammad Hossain; Councillors Mohammad Gias Uddin and Niaz Mohammad Kahn; Chief Executive Officer Monjur-e-Elahi; Secretary Mohammad Shamsuddoha.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY 100% GLUCOSE Thundershowers likely UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporarily partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Mild heat wave is likely over Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:31pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Max Min Morning Evening Dhaka 35.3 27.3 66 70 Chittagong 32.5 25.9 69 73 Rajshahi 36.5 24.4 76 84 Rangpur 33.5 22.6 70 50 Khulna 37.2 26.2 69 60 Barisal 35.5 26.0 75 67 Sylhet 33.8 22.5 67 69 Cox's Bazar 33.5 26.0 65 76 Instant energy, Instant recharge

DHAKA TODAY Discussion 7 Number Sector Muktiyoddha Parishad will hold a memorial discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm. Discussion Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will organise a discussion; Venue: Gono Sangskriti Kendra; Time: 3:00pm. Seminar Ananna Social Foundation will hold a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am. Conference International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions will organise a conference; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 9:30am. Workshop Saarc Agriculture Centre will hold a workshop; Venue: Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, Farmgate; Time: 8:30am.